

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5980

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 268

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0404

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: SYRIAN MEDIATION EFFORTS ACHIEVE INITIAL SUCCESS IN
LEBANON

1. SUMMARY: SYRIAN MEDIA JAN 23 STRESS AGREEMENT
BY LEBANESE PARTIES TO COMPREHENSIVE POLITICAL
AND MILITARY ACCORD. SYRIAN REPRESENTATIVES ON
JOINT COMMITTEE ARE KEY ASAD AIDES. LIBYAN EMBASSY
STAFF EVACUATED FROM BEIRUT HAVE REACHED DAMASCUS. PLA
REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN CALLING UP ITS RESERVES WHO
SERVED DURING 1973-75 PERIOD. BODIES STILL ARRIVING
FROM LEBANON AND CROWDING DAMASCUS HOSPITALS. END
SUMMARY.

2. SYRIAN MEDIA HAVE STRESSED INITIAL SUCCESS
SYRIAN EFFORTS RESOLVE LEBANESE CRISIS. AL-THAWRAH
BANNERED: "CEASEFIRE IN LEBANON. SYRIAN INITIATIVE
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ACHIEVES GREAT SUCCESS IN SETTLEING CRISIS IN ALL

ASPECTS. DECLARATION OF COMPREHENSIVE POLITICAL AND MILITARY AGREEMENT. FORMATION OF SUPREME MILITARY COMMITTEE AND NUMBER OF BRANCH SUPERVISORY COMMITTEES TO IMPLEMENT CEASEFIRE." SANA DISPATCH FROM BEIRUT REPORTED "COMPLETE CALM PREVAILED IN BEIRUT AT 2000 AS DECISIONS OF SUPREME MILITARY COMMITTEE EXECUTED." PRESS REPORTS NOTED KHADDAM HAD COMMUNICATED WITH ASAD TO RECEIVE FURTHER ORDERS. SALAM, JUMBLATT, SHATILA AND OSSEIRAN LISTED AS EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR SYRIAN INITIATIVE.

3. SYRIAN MEDIA CITED WITH APPROVAL AFP REPORT THAT FRANCE READY TO ASSIST EFFORTS IMPLEMENT LEBANESE ACCORD. CONCERNING EGYPT, HOWEVER, PRESS REPORTED THAT PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS IN CAIRO ACCUSED SOME EGYPTIAN JOURNALISTS OF "DISTORTING FACTS" ABOUT LEBANON, SINGLING OUT IN PARTICULAR AMIN BROTHERS. AL-BAATH EDITORIALIZED AGAINST ATTEMPTS BY "HOSTILE FORCES" TO "UNDERMINE LEBANESE MODEL IN PREPARATION FOR REJECTING PALESTINIAN MODEL INTERNATIONALLY PROPOSED FOR PALESTINE." EDITORIAL ADDED THAT WHILE "IMPERIALISM STIMULATES LEBANESE FORCES AND OTHERS BENEFITING FROM CRISIS, ALL LEBANESE AND ARAB FORCES WILL BE LOSERS IF EVENTS CONTINUE TO DETERIORATE." AL-BAATH COLUMNIST ASSERTED THAT "SYRIA'S PERSISTENT EFFORTS TO STOP LEBANESE CRISIS (NOT UNDERTAKEN) IN SYRIAN SELF-INTEREST," BUT RATHER IN CONFORMITY WITH BAATHIST GOAL OF PROMOTING ARAB UNITY IN ORDER TO CONFRONT ENEMY.

4. TWO SYRIAN REPRESENTATIVES ON SUPREME MILITARY COMMITTEE KNOWN AS KEY SUPPORTERS OF PRES. ASAD. COL. MUHAMMAD AL-KHULI (ALAWITE) IS DIRECTOR OF AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE AND COL. ALI AL-MADANI IS CHIEF OF MILITARY POLICE. KHULI IS INTER ALIA RESPONSIBLE FOR PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL SECURITY, AND ANYONE HOLDING MILITARY POLICE COMMANDER'S JOB MUST ENJOY COMPLETE TRUST OF SYRIAN PRESIDENT.

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5. LOCAL PALESTINIAN SOURCE TOLD US THAT PLA HAS BEEN CALLING UP ITS RESERVISTS WHO HAD SERVED IN PLA DURING 1973-75 PERIOD.

6. WE UNDERSTAND FROM SAME PALESTINIAN SOURCE THAT LIBYAN EMBASSY BEIRUT HAS BEEN EVACUATED TO DAMASCUS. CARAVAN OF TEN CARS REPORTEDLY ARRIVED DAMASCUS NIGHT JAN 22-23 UNDER SAIQA ESCORT AFTER

TEN HOUR TRIP FROM BEIRUT. FACT THAT NUMBER OF
CARS WITH LEBANESE DIP PLATES PARKED IN FRONT OF
LIBYAN EMBASSY TENDS CONFIRM THIS REPORT.

7. VARIOUS OBSERVERS REPORT THAT BODIES OF PALESTINIAN
KILLED AND WOUNDED STILL ARRIVING FROM LEBANON
AND CROWDING DAMASCUS HOSPITALS AND MORGUES.
MURPHY

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